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General Assembly

FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

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FIRST COMMITTEE
49th meeting
held on
Thursday, 29 November 1990
at 3 p.m.
New York

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 49th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. Rana (Nepal)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

AGENDA ITEMS 68, 69, 70 AND 12 (continued)

GENERAL DEBATE, CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION ON DRAFT RESOLUTIONS ON INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AGENDA ITEMS

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (chapter III, section D)

The CHAIRMAN: This afternoon, the Committee will take action on draft resolutions submitted under agenda items 68, 69 and 70, namely draft resolutions A/C.1/45/L.65, L.66 and L.67.

I call first on the representative of Malta to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.65.

Mr. BORG (Malta): It is an honour for my delegation to submit for the consideration of this Committee the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/45/L.65, relating to agenda item 68, entitled "Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region". I do this on behalf of the delegations of Albania, Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Tunisia, Yugoslavia and Malta.

The debate in the past few days has affirmed and acknowledged both the remarkable achievements made in international security and concerns over the tensions still prevailing in certain regions of the world. A number of delegations have highlighted the impact those achievements, particularly those in Europe, could have on the security needs of the Mediterranean region and on the task of promoting peace, security and co-operation in that region.

The draft resolution I have the honour to introduce today tries to reflect the new and positive trend emerging in Europe and the ways in which that trend affects the collective security of Europe and the Mediterranean, two neighbouring regions that are linked by political, economic, social and environmental affinities.

This year we have witnessed many positive activities at a very high level aimed at furthering the development of the Euro-Mediterranean dimension in

(Mr. Borg, Malta)

general. The process of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) has given the Mediterranean countries hope in their search for and efforts towards lasting solutions to the endemic problems still besetting the region.

Indeed, a flurry of important activities has focused on the Mediterranean, starting with the 83rd Inter-Parliamentary Conference, held at Nicosia from 2 to 7 April 1990, and followed by the Third Ministerial Conference of the Mediterranean Non-Aligned Countries, held in Algiers on 25 and 26 June 1990; the First Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the 10 countries of the Western Mediterranean, held in Rome on 10 October 1990; the Meeting on the Mediterranean of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, held in Palma de Mallorca from 24 September to 19 October 1990; the Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Balkan States, held in Tirana in October 1990; and the meetings of the Arab Maghreb Union.

The first follow-up gathering to those meetings will be a meeting to be held during December between representatives of the non-aligned Mediterranean countries, namely Algeria, Egypt, Malta and Yugoslavia, and representatives of European Community countries, namely Italy, France, Spain and Portugal, with the aim of finding ways to build on the agreements reached during the past year.

As in previous years, the non-aligned Mediterranean countries have held intensive consultations with a view to submitting a draft text that would command the overall support of the Committee. The product of those consultations is contained in document A/C.1/45/L.65.

According to the draft resolution the General Assembly would recognize the evolving international situation, particularly in Europe, and express the fervent wish of the Mediterranean States to work in unison towards the enhancement of security and co-operation in the region. In that regard, it would reaffirm the primary role of the Mediterranean countries, the efforts they have carried out in

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(Mr. Borg, Malta)

intensifying the process of dialogue and consultation, and their desire that the needs of the region be taken into account in ongoing and future negotiations relating to international security and disarmament.

The General Assembly would also recognize the indivisible character of security in the Mediterranean and the need to ensure that all actions are aimed towards the promotion of peace, security and co-operation in the region. It would also note with satisfaction the greater awareness in Europe of the need for interdependent action in the Mediterranean with the aim of contributing towards reducing tension, improving good-neighbourly relations and fostering political, cultural and economic progress in the region.

In the operative part of the draft resolution the General Assembly would reaffirm that security in the Mediterranean is closely linked to European security as well as to international peace and security. It would welcome the determination expressed by Mediterranean countries to intensify their efforts to promote dialogue and co-operation in the region to achieve, through peaceful settlement, just and lasting solutions to those crises which still threaten regional peace and stability, thus ensuring the withdrawal of foreign forces of occupation and the right of peoples under colonial or foreign domination to self-determination and independence, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

Paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and 7 of the draft resolution deal with the meetings held earlier this year in Algeria, Palma de Mallorca, Nicosia, Rome and Tirana, as well as with the ongoing process in the CSCE and in the Arab Maghreb Union, which has been considering security in the Mediterranean in all its aspects.

In paragraph 6, the General Assembly would take note of the support among Mediterranean countries for the proposal to convene a conference on security and

(Mr. Borg, Malta)

co-operation in the Mediterranean and of their willingness to open regional consultations with a view to creating the appropriate conditions for the initiation of such a process.

The just and peaceful settlement of persistent problems in the region, the intensification of existing forms of co-operation in various fields and the elimination of the economic and social disparities in levels of development are all actions which need to be emphasized, urged and encouraged in the Mediterranean region. Such actions, contemplated in paragraphs 8, 9 and 10, would contribute significantly to the reduction of tension, promote peace and security, and ensure stability, prosperity and support for democratic processes, economic reforms and development in the countries of the Mediterranean region in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

In paragraphs 11, 12 and 13, follow-up action is envisaged on the implementation of the draft resolution.

On behalf of the sponsors I should like to stress the critical importance of having all Members of the United Nations work collectively to bring to fruition the measures indicated in the draft resolution.

(Mr. Borg, Malta)

Before concluding, let me express my delegation's thanks and appreciation to all the delegations that contributed constructively to the informal negotiations on the draft resolution, making it possible to bridge differences on crucial aspects of the proposal. In that respect we are particularly grateful to all the sponsors and to the representative of Italy, who acted on behalf of the European Community.

In submitting the draft resolution for the Committee's consideration, the sponsors express the wish that it be adopted without a vote.

Mr. KAPAMBWE (Zambia): My delegation wishes to state its views on draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.66. My delegation had been attempting to hold last-minute consultations with the sponsors of the draft resolution with a view to ensuring that some of its concerns were taken into account in the text. Unfortunately, perhaps owing to the tyranny of time, it appears difficult at present for all the sponsors of the draft resolution to agree to incorporate my delegation's concerns.

In particular, my delegation has problems with the fifth preambular paragraph. My delegation would feel much more comfortable if the words "Expressing its satisfaction at" were replaced by the word "Welcoming". As much as we welcome the wide-ranging dialogue between the two super-Powers, there are certain concerns of particular importance to my delegation that we do not think have been given very much attention in that dialogue. The question of Angola, the question of Palestine and the question of Central America are but a few of the very important issues we do not think have occupied a priority place in the discussions between the two super-Powers.

My delegation also has problems with the sixth preambular paragraph. My delegation hopes the sponsors of the draft resolution will accept the following amendment, by which this paragraph would read as follows:

(Mr. Kapambwe, Zambia)

"Expressing the hope that the positive trends in Europe, where a new system of security and co-operation is being built through the process of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), can encourage similar trends in other parts of the world".

My delegation feels that the last phrase in the present text, "should be extended to encompass all parts of the world", is somewhat too strong and could be interpreted to mean that the CSCE process is being imposed on all parts of the world.

My delegation also has problems with operative paragraph 7, in particular with the phrase "Welcomes the renewed effectiveness of the Security Council". We believe that, although the Security Council has become very active in the question of the Gulf crisis, it would be premature at this time for us to say that the Security Council had been effective in resolving the situation in the Gulf. That situation continues, and we believe the Security Council should, with similar activity, discuss other questions that have been placed before it. We do not think such discussion has yet taken place in the Security Council - not, at least, with the effectiveness of the discussion of the Gulf crisis. My delegation wanted to propose a revised text of this paragraph, and made this known to the sponsors of the draft resolution, but since, as I said, the consultations were unfortunately not exhaustive, it was not possible for us to be consulted at an early stage and hence to provide our input with respect to the draft resolution.

The last concern of my delegation relates to the matter of apartheid, which is addressed in the preambular part of the draft resolution but not in the operative part. My delegation would have felt much more comfortable with an additional operative paragraph calling upon the United Nations to implement the Declaration on South Africa adopted by the General Assembly at its sixteenth special session.

Mr. DZVAIRO (Zimbabwe): My delegation too regrets to have to express its concerns regarding draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.66. It is unfortunate that consultations on the text of this draft resolution, whose broad thrust we fully support, were not exhaustive and that therefore our positions are not adequately reflected in the draft text which is before the Committee and on which we are about to take action.

The concerns of my delegation relate to the paragraphs just referred to by our colleague from Zambia. The fifth preambular paragraph leaves us very uncomfortable, largely because the language does not adequately reflect the dismay, which my delegation shares, at the failure of the two super-Powers to address with the same effectiveness noted with respect to certain issues many other issues over which they hold sway and which are of great concern to us and to other members of the international community. Examples are the question of Angola, the conflict in the Middle East and the question of Central America. We feel that the language of the fifth preambular paragraph should have indicated that a lot more progress remains to be made in the bilateral negotiations.

The second issue that concerns my delegation is the language of the sixth preambular paragraph, which again leaves us uncomfortable. Although we welcome the success of the process of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), the way it is reflected in this paragraph leaves the distinct impression that it is a process to be imposed on other regions. Our belief is that this matter should be addressed on a regional basis, with different solutions for other regions, as the need arises. Had we been able to discuss this, we might have been able to put it in a different way.

(Mr. Dzvairo, Zimbabwe)

Thirdly, we are concerned about operative paragraph 7. We feel that more care could have been taken in the formulation of that paragraph, particularly in view of the long-standing issues that have been before the Security Council for many years and on which there has been no progress. We would have encouraged the active involvement of the Security Council in the current attempt to resolve the situation in the Gulf, where there has been much more activity, and would have hoped that the same vigour could have been applied to dealing with such long-standing issues as the situation in South Africa, in Central America and in the Middle East.

Lastly, we are very pleased that there is a preambular paragraph in which it is strongly emphasized that apartheid is a particular and repugnant form of institutionalized racism, which civilized nations have rightly condemned as a crime against humanity. We are dismayed to find that there is no corresponding operative paragraph calling for the implementation of the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa adopted by consensus last December. I regret to say that, in view of the unsatisfactory nature of that particular paragraph, we shall be compelled to abstain in the voting on this draft resolution.

Mrs. MULAMULA (United Republic of Tanzania): In the interest of saving the Committee's time, knowing that most of our attention is at the moment in the Security Council Chamber, I should like to associate my delegation fully with the remarks and concerns expressed by the delegations of Zambia and Zimbabwe. They have raised particular concerns with regard to paragraphs in draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.66 that are in line with, and similar to, the concerns my delegation pointed out to the sponsors.

Having said that, just for the record my delegation wanted to express its concern with regard to the manner in which consultations on the draft resolutions

(Mrs. Mulamula, United Republic of Tanzania)

have been conducted, confined as they were to the few so-called interested delegations who knew that there are many new elements in the text but who left many of us out of it. We are now presented with a "take-it-or-leave-it" text, and I am sorry that we were not allowed time to have thorough consultations on it. I believe that most of the sponsors could have lived with the amendments that we were seeking to include in the text in the interest of improving it and of keeping up with the mood of the times.

Mr. AMBEYI-LIBAGO (Kenya): While it was not my wish to speak at this late hour, I want to associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the delegations of Zambia, Zimbabwe and the United Republic of Tanzania.

Kenya has very strong reservations with regard to the fifth and sixth preambular paragraphs and to operative paragraph 7 of draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.66. While my delegation appreciates the positive events which started in Europe with regard to the process of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, I too feel, and my delegation feels, that the draft resolution we are considering has not taken acount of some other issues in other parts of the world.

Together with some other African delegations, my delegation submitted certain proposals for amendments to the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.66, but, for reasons best known to the sponsors, our amendments were not taken into consideration.

My delegation, along with some other African delegations, has always listened to and heeded calls from other delegations, and we normally take into consideration proposals made by other delegations when our African draft resolutions are

(Mr. Ambeyi-Libago, Kenya)

submitted to the Committee. We are surprised that the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.66 were not prepared to budge even an inch to take account of our proposals.

The question of apartheid in South Africa is a very sensitive issue - at the moment probably one of the greatest and most institutionalized crimes in the world today. Since that basic and fundamental issue has not been taken into serious consideration in draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.66, in spite of the proposals of a number of African delegations, the delegation of Kenya will be compelled to abstain in the voting on the draft resolution.

The CHAIRMAN: There are no delegations wishing to speak in explanation of their position before a decision is taken on draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.65, submitted under agenda item 68. The Committee will therefore now proceed to take a decision on the draft resolution, "Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Malta at the Committee's 49th meeting, on 29 November 1990.

I call upon the Secretary of the Committee to read the list of sponsors.

Mr. KHERADI (Secretary of the Committee): The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.65 are: Albania, Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malta, Morocco, Tunisia and Yugoslavia.

The CHAIRMAN: The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.65 have expressed the hope that the Committee would adopt the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly?

Draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.65 was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: I understand that consultations are still under way with regard to draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.66. With the Committee's permission, therefore, I should like to proceed to consider draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.67, under agenda item 70.

The Committee will now proceed to take a decision on draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.67, "Implementation of the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace". The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Poland at the 46th meeting of the First Committee, on 28 November 1990.

There are no delegations wishing to explain their positions on the draft resolution before action is taken on it. I shall therefore call upon the Secretary of the Committee to announce the sponsors of the draft resolution.

Mr. KHERADI (Secretary of the Committee): Draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.67 is sponsored by Poland.

The CHAIRMAN: The sponsor of draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.67 has expressed the hope that it will be adopted by the Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Committee wishes to act accordingly?

Draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.67 was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: As I informed the Committee earlier, consultations are still going on with regard to draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.66. The sponsors have now asked if they might have a little more time to complete the consultation process. With the Committee's permission, I shall therefore suspend the meeting for 20 minutes.

The meeting was suspended at 4 p.m. and resumed at 4.45 p.m.

The CHAIRMAN: Before the Committee proceeds to take a decision on draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.66, I call on the representative of Yugoslavia, a sponsor of the draft resolution, who wishes to make a statement.

Mr. KOTEVSKI (Yugoslavia): I should like at the outset to thank you, Sir, and all the members of the First Committee for giving the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.66 some additional time for consultations.

I should like to inform the Committee that we have successfully accomplished our consultations with the delegations that have expressed concern regarding some wording in certain paragraphs, and I should like now to read out the amendments that the sponsors are proposing to draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.66.

(Mr. Kotevski, Yugoslavia)

The first change is in the fifth preambular paragraph, in which "Expressing its satisfaction at" is changed to "Welcoming".

The next change is in the sixth preambular paragraph, which will now read "Expressing the hope" instead of "Expressing its conviction". The words "should be extended to encompass all parts of the world" are replaced by "will continue and will encourage similar trends in other parts of the world".

We have agreed to delete the twelfth preambular paragraph, which deals with the question of environment, and to replace it with wording from operative paragraph 11. Thus, the new twelfth preambular paragraph will read: "Considering that the protection of the environment has emerged" and so on. The rest of the wording remains the same. Of course, in that case there will be no need for operative paragraph 11, so it will not appear in the operative part of the draft resolution.

The next change is in operative paragraph 7, dealing with the Security Council. The new version of that paragraph will read:

"Welcomes the active involvement of the Security Council, in pursuance of its primary responsibility in the maintenance of international peace and security, and expresses the hope that it will continue in this spirit to address all the other threats to international peace and security with which it has been seized;".

Finally, the sponsors would like to introduce a new operative paragraph, which will come immediately after the present operative paragraph 13 and will read:

"Reaffirms the responsibility of the United Nations on the question of dismantling of apartheid and calls for full implementation of the Declaration of the sixteenth special session of the General Assembly on apartheid and its destructive consequences in southern Africa;".

(Mr. Kotevski, Yugoslavia)

Those are the changes that the sponsors, after consultations with which you, Sir, were kind enough to provide us, would like to propose. We sincerely hope that the Committee will now be able to take action on the draft resolution as amended.

The CHAIRMAN: The oral amendment proposed by the representative of Yugoslavia on behalf of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.66 will accordingly be reflected in the text.

Mr. LENZI (Italy): In consideration of the extent of the amendments which have been announced to draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.66, the Italian delegation would be grateful, on behalf also of some of the 12 members of the European Community, if a further brief suspension were allowed us to consider them.

The CHAIRMAN: In view of the consultations that may be needed, with the permission of the Committee I should like to suspend the meeting for 15 minutes.

The meeting was suspended at 4.55 p.m. and resumed at 5.40 p.m.

The CHAIRMAN: I have been approached by several delegations, which have requested a little more time for consultations on draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.66 as revised. There was a delay in resuming the meeting, as I was checking with conference services to determine if the Committee could possibly meet tomorrow. I have been informed that if we meet punctually at 10 a.m., it might be possible to do so. However, problems would arise should there be further delays. All the other Committees are entering the voting stage and there are only two conference rooms available with voting facilities. Therefore, I would request that we meet here tomorrow, on time, so that we can complete our work.

There has been a request to have the oral amendments to draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.66 read out at dictation speed, with interpretation, so that delegations can take note of them. The amended document will be available tomorrow morning. In order to facilitate members' consultations in the meantime, I should like to request the Secretary of the Committee to read out at dictation speed the oral amendments proposed by the representative of Yugoslavia.

Mr. KHERADI (Secretary of the Committee): The oral revisions proposed by the representative of Yugoslavia were, I believe, as follows:

In the fifth preambular paragraph, which is the first preambular paragraph at the top of page 2, the words "Expressing its satisfaction at" should be replaced with "Welcoming". The paragraph would thus read: "Welcoming the wide-ranging dialogue", and so forth, as it then appears until the end of the paragraph;

In the next paragraph, that is, the sixth preambular paragraph, the words "its conviction" should be replaced with "the hope". The paragraph would thus begin: "Expressing the hope that the positive trends which started in Europe, where a new system of security and co-operation is being built through the process of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe". The words "should be extended

to encompass all" should be replaced with: "will continue and will encourage similar trends in other", followed by the rest of the sentence, "parts of the world". The paragraph would thus read: "Expressing the hope that the positive trends which started in Europe, where a new system of security and co-operation is being built through the process of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, will continue and will encourage similar trends in other parts of the world".

The twelfth preambular paragraph should be deleted and replaced, mutatis mutandis, with the wording in the earlier operative paragraph 11. The twelfth preambular paragraph, as revised, would thus read: "Considering that the protection of the environment has emerged as a major global concern, dramatically emphasizing the growing interdependence of the world, which calls for urgent co-operative measures ensuring sustainable and environmentally sound development". The wording is exactly the same as in operative paragraph 11, with just the change of the word "Considers" to "Considering";

In operative paragraph 7, the words "renewed effectiveness" should be replaced with "active involvement" and the word "principal" replaced with "primary". At the end of the paragraph, the word "trend" should be deleted, and the following words added: "spirit to address all the other threats to international peace and security with which it has been seized".

(Mr. Kheradi)

Operative paragraph 7, as revised, should thus read:

"Welcomes the active involvement of the Security Council, in pursuance of its primary responsibility in the maintenance of international peace and security, and expresses the hope that it will continue in this spirit to address all the other threats to international peace and security with which it has been seized".

Turning to page 4, operative paragraph 11 has been deleted, as I stated earlier. The old operative paragraph 12 would thus become operative paragraph 11; the old operative paragraph 13 would thus become operative paragraph 12 and a new operative paragraph 13 would be added, which reads as follows:

"Reaffirms the responsibility of the United Nations on the question of dismantling of apartheid and calls for full implementation of the Declaration of the sixteenth special session of the General Assembly on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa".

The CHAIRMAN: I trust that delegations have been able to note the amendments as proposed by the representative of Yugoslavia.

I now call on the representative of Turkey, who wishes to speak in exercise of the right of reply.

Mr. ALPMAN (Turkey): This morning, the representative of the Greek Cypriots made a statement, which contained the usual distortions and unfounded assertions. The First Committee is a serious forum and should be spared -

The CHAIRMAN: I call on the representative of Cyprus, who wishes to speak on a point of order.

Mr. KAKOURIS (Cyprus): I was hoping not to have to speak on a point of order, but I am afraid that the fact that the representative of Turkey refers to me as the Greek Cypriot representative, and not as the representative of Cyprus, as you yourself introduced me, forces me to do so. I would very much appreciate it,

(Mr. Kakouris, Cyprus)

Mr. Chairman, if the representative of Turkey kindly recognized this fact, which I trust will be conveyed to him through you.

The CHAIRMAN: I would like to request the representative of Turkey to keep this in mind. I call on the representative of Turkey, to continue his statement.

Mr. ALPMAN (Turkey): The First Committee is a serious forum and should be spared this kind of malicious playing around with legal concepts, principles and false analogies, designed to confuse and conceive those who might not be fully familiar with the facts on Cyprus.

I need hardly remind the Committee that the Greek Cypriots violated the Constitution of the Republic of Cyprus in 1963 by forcibly removing the Turkish Cypriots, co-founders of the Cypriot State, from the Government and administration of that country. Since then, they have been in violation not only of the Constitution of Cyprus but also of the international treaties associated with the creation of the Republic of Cyprus in 1960. They have also grossly violated the human rights of the Turkish Cypriots by uprooting thousands of them, destroying their livelihood, restricting their movements and, yes, often massacring them indiscriminately. There are, I am sorry to have to remind the Committee, a number of mass graves in Cyprus, attesting to the atrocities committed against this peaceful people. Their ordeal at the hands of the Greek Cypriots lasted 11 long years, and not even the presence of the United Nations Peace-Keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), which was stationed in that country in 1964 to protect the embattled Turkish Cypriots, could prevent the Greek Cypriots from systematically carrying out their plans for driving out or exterminating this community.

If there is a Turkish military presence in the island today, it is to protect the lives and the existence of the Turkish Cypriots and their small State from the

(Mr. Alpman, Turkey)

dire fate that the Greek Cypriots have in store for them, and which they have never bothered to disguise. Furthermore, Turkey was compelled to intervene in Cyprus, as everyone knows, to prevent prevent the island from being annexed to Greece following the blood-bath that was unleashed in the island on 15 July 1974 by Greece and their Greek Cypriot collaborators. This intervention was legally and politically justified, and the attempt to draw ludicrous analogies with Kuwait is contemptible and unworthy of a reply on my part.

The time has come for the Greek Cypriots, who have a long and dark history of being wolves, to stop masquerading as innocent lambs in this Committee. It is not very convincing.

Mr. KAKOURIS (Cyprus): The representative of Turkey began by using the phrase "usual distortions". I think he has adequately shown to the highest degree how he can distort the facts to the fullest.

The First Committee is a serious forum. International security is a serious matter. Facts are facts. An invasion did occur, and occupation is continuing. Invasion in the summer of 1974 was an act of blatant aggression, and the use of force by Turkey was contrary to both the Charter and the norms of international law. Turkey's actions can in no way be cloaked in the way that it tries to portray them. Furthermore, successive General Assembly resolutions, as well as numerous binding Security Council resolutions have recognized as much; and they have demanded the withdrawal of the Turkish occupation forces. Those are facts.

(Mr. Kakouris, Cyprus)

Let me point out to my colleague from Turkey that if he goes to the second floor and walks from the Security Council Chamber towards the Delegates' Lounge he will see many gifts that various countries have donated to the United Nations and that in one way or another embody the principles and purposes of the Charter. One of these is a replica of the oldest known peace treaty, concluded in 1269 B.C. The caption next to it states that this peace treaty, regarded as being of unique significance in the history of international relations, has among its central themes lasting peace, territorial integrity and non-aggression.

Cyprus fully subscribes to those principles and values. Turkey, on the other hand, through its invasion in 1974 and through its continued occupation has shown the contrary position.

It may be of interest for members of the Committee to note that the gift in question was donated by Turkey.

Mr. STEPHANOU (Greece): At this moment, when the First Committee is taking action on matters of international security and when the Security Council is meeting at the highest level, that of Foreign Ministers, to take action on a blatant breach of international peace and security, namely Iraq's brutal invasion and occupation of an independent Member State of the United Nations, the representative of Turkey decided to challenge the very existence of the Republic of Cyprus, another independent Member State of the United Nations, a part of whose territory is still occupied by Turkey after the brutal invasion of 1974. Facts are always facts, and they cannot be altered.

As to the mention of the name of my country by the representative of Turkey, I must note that Greece has not invaded any country or threatened its territorial integrity.

(Mr. Stephanou, Greece)

As to the small State the representative of Turkey admits his country is protecting, let me remind him that Turkey is the only State in the world to recognize it. All others condemn it.

Mr. ALPMAN (Turkey): My country is indeed proud of having donated the replica of this historic treaty to the United Nations.

I shall not take up more of the Committee's time by prolonging the debate. The recent history of Cyprus, going back to 1963, is well known, and all fair-minded observers know who the oppressors are and who the victims are. The conflict did not start in 1974.

Mr. KAKOURIS (Cyprus): I echo the statement made by the representative of Greece: the small supposed State to which Turkey refers has not been recognized, and is not recognized, by any State other than Turkey. Its proclamation was condemned by Security Council resolutions and was declared null and void.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

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FIRST COMMITTEE
50th meeting
held on
Friday, 30 November 1990
at 10.30 a.m.
New York

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 50th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. Rana (Nepal)

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AGENDA ITEMS 68, 69, 70 AND 12 (continued)

CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION ON DRAFT RESOLUTIONS ON INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AGENDA ITEMS

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (chapter III, section D)

The CHAIRMAN: This morning the Committee will take a decision on draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.66/Rev.1, submitted under agenda item 69.

Mr. KOTEVSKI (Yugoslavia): Since document A/C.1/45/L.66/Rev.1 was issued, the sponsors have held additional consultations and have agreed to introduce a few more changes into the text. I promise that these changes will be the last.

The revisions relate to operative paragraph 7, which should read as follows:

"Welcomes recent active involvement of the Security Council in pursuance of its primary responsibility in the maintenance of international peace and security, and expresses the hope that it will continue in this spirit to address other threats to international peace and security."

The CHAIRMAN: We shall now proceed to take a decision on draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.66/Rev.1 as orally revised. The draft resolution is entitled "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security" and was introduced by the representative of Yugoslavia at the 48th meeting of the First Committee, held on 29 November 1990. I call upon the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. KHERADI (Secretary of the Committee): Draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.66/Rev.1 is sponsored by the following delegations: Algeria, Bangladesh, Cuba, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Yugoslavia.

The CHAIRMAN: A recorded vote has been requested on draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.66/Rev.1, as orally revised.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: United States of America

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.66/Rev.1, as orally revised, was adopted by 91 votes to 1, with 29 abstentions.

The CHAIRMAN: I call now on those delegations wishing to speak in explanation of their vote.

Mr. LENZI (Italy) (interpretation from French): The Twelve States members of the European Community, on whose behalf I am speaking, welcome the adoption by consensus of draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.67, "Implementation of the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace". The views of the States members of the European Community on the Declaration were given at the time of its adoption, on 8 December 1978. We note, however, that the draft resolution adopted yesterday marks the end of an exercise that, given the recent developments in the international situation, no longer has any raison d'être. In the circumstances, we were able to join in the consensus.

Ms. CLERICI (United States of America): I should like to explain my delegation's vote on two of the draft resolutions that we have just considered.

My delegation joined in the consensus in favour of draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.65, "Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region". I should like to comment on references to the proposal for a conference on security and co-operation in the Mediterranean. The United States supports the plan to address the basic economic and social concerns of the Mediterranean through economic co-operation and regional dialogue. However, our support for those goals and our endorsement of the draft resolution should not be understood to constitute endorsement of the proposal for the creation of a conference on security and co-operation in the Mediterranean.

In regard to draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.66, "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security", which the Committee adopted this morning, I have asked to make a statement explaining why we voted against it. My delegation believes that, while the draft resolution has been improved as compared with draft resolutions adopted in recent years, it still contains several factual errors as well as a number of concepts that my Government

(Ms. Clerici, United States)

does not support. More to the point, we feel that the time has come to re-examine the entire approach of the draft resolution on this subject.

The United States believes that the work of the United Nations would be enhanced by the introduction of draft resolutions that focus on the issues at hand. A large portion of the text before us deals with environmental, social and developmental concerns. These issues are important - they are, in fact, too important for anything less than the most serious attention the United Nations can bring to them; indeed, they are being addressed fully in other forums - but as presented in this draft resolution the issues are abbreviated, and we believe that they do not always reflect the agreements that have been reached on them, often by consensus, in the proper forums.

For example, the Declaration on apartheid of the sixteenth special session, which was adopted by consensus and supported by the United States, recognized the right of all peoples, including the people of South Africa, to determine their own destiny and called on them to join together to negotiate an end to apartheid. The Declaration placed the responsibility for dismantling apartheid and devising a new system where it rightfully belongs, namely, with the people of South Africa. We do not think that now is the time for sterile rhetorical condemnations on this particular issue.

With regard to the draft resolution more generally, my delegation believes that the time has come to look at some of the issues in a more forthright manner.

Mr. ALPMAN (Turkey): I would like briefly to explain my delegation's position on draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.65, "Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region", which the First Committee adopted yesterday.

As in the case of similar draft resolutions in previous years, my delegation joined in the consensus in favour of the draft resolution. This is an expression

(Mr. Alpman, Turkey)

of our keen interest in the maintenance and strengthening of peace and security in the entire Mediterranean region. I should note, however, that the draft resolution refers to certain meetings in which Turkey did not participate. I would like to put on record the fact that our participation in the adoption of the draft resolution should not be construed as Turkey's agreement with every element contained in the conclusions of those meetings.

Mr. AMIGUES (France) (interpretation from French): The French delegation has joined in the consensus on draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.65, "Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region". France regrets, however, that consultations on the draft resolution, which deals with a subject to which it attaches great importance, failed again this year to produce a fully satisfactory text, in spite of the commendable efforts of the delegation of Malta.

The result of those consultations is a draft resolution in which the positions of certain groups of States are better reflected than are those of other groups. In particular, my delegation finds the fourth preambular paragraph and operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution unclear and unbalanced. France hopes that these comments will be duly taken into account at the next session of the First Committee and that the consultations held then will make it possible to arrive at a text that is fully satisfactory to all.

Mr. JANDL (Austria): The Austrian delegation abstained in the voting on draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.66/Rev.1, "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security".

I wish to underline my delegation's gratitude to the traditional sponsors of the draft resolution for their efforts to improve the text and make it more acceptable to delegations with a critical stance on it. We note with appreciation that this year's text was free of several features found in earlier resolutions, most recently resolution 44/126, which my delegation could not support. In this

(Mr. Jandl, Austria)

context, however, I have to add that we preferred the original version of the text to the revised one.

While fully acknowledging the said improvements in the text, which we welcome, we were - much to our regret - still not in a position to support the draft resolution. In our view the entire draft resolution tries to include so many different aspects that its conceptual structure and thrust become somewhat blurred. Furthermore, there are some elements whose concepts or meanings are not clear and not fully understandable. In the preambular part, for example, mention is made of the economic needs of the least developed countries, without a sound elaboration of the important aspects of the immediate relationship and interaction between the economic situation on the one hand and stability and security on the other. In addition, operative paragraphs 10 and 14, for instance, contain formulations the conceptual and analytical foundations of which are unclear.

In spite of various positive elements in draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.66/Rev.1, my delegation, for the reasons just outlined, was compelled to abstain, particularly in the light of the changes introduced yesterday.

Mr. DA COSTA E SILVA (Brazil): As a clear sign of its full commitment to and endorsement of the principles and concepts contained in the 1970 Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security, which was adopted by virtual consensus, Brazil voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.66/Rev.1, as it has consistently done in the voting on earlier draft resolutions on the subject.

We welcome the flexibility and constructive spirit of the sponsors, who made every effort to accommodate, even in last-minute negotiations, the concern of many delegations, including my own, which have always supported the draft resolution on this important issue.

(Mr. Da Costa e Silva, Brazil)

I would also wish to express my thanks to you, Mr. Chairman, for having allowed more time for consultations. As we had the opportunity to emphasize in our statement during the general debate on international security, it is our profound belief that the Committee should dedicate more time to deliberations on this subject of particular importance in the present international circumstances.

In this context, while fully sharing the concerns expressed in the twelfth preambular paragraph on the question of the environment, my delegation also strongly believes that the question of environment should not be dealt with in an item dealing with international security because of the political and, consequently, institutional implications that might be derived therefrom. Our positive vote in favour of draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.66/Rev.1 should not be construed in any way whatsoever as an acceptance, on our part, of dealing with the problem of the environment as an international-security issue.

Finally, my delegation would also like to make an observation with regard to the sixth preambular paragraph, which was certainly improved with its new drafting. With the rest of the international community, we welcome the positive trends in Europe towards shaping relations based on peaceful and co-operative mechanisms. When we bear in mind that Europe has been the arena for an overwhelming arms race and for an ideological confrontation that has substantially affected the rest of the world, the new trends are certainly of the utmost importance and should be warmly welcomed and, above all, stimulated and consolidated.

However, it should be borne in mind that Europe is just a part of a world rich in diversity, where separate historical, political and economic realities require specific solutions. In Latin America, for instance, we have maintained a long

(Mr. Da Costa e Silva, Brazil)

tradition of friendly relations, which are based on our common historical heritage and which have given rise to the establishment of various long-standing regional co-operation institutions.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee has heard the last speaker in explanation of vote on agenda items 68, 69 and 70, related to international security, and the Committee has therefore concluded its work on those agenda items.

As I informed you at the organizational meeting on 9 October, the relevant part of item 12 of the agenda of the General Assembly, namely, chapter III, section D, of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/45/3), entitled "International co-operation in the elimination of the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant", which was allocated to the First Committee, was placed within the same time slot as the general debate, consideration of and action on draft resolutions on international security agenda items, but, of course, as a separate item.

However, as I also informed you at the same meeting on 9 October, I had consulted with all delegations concerned, as well as with the Chairman of the Second Committee, on this subject, since item 12 was also on the agenda of the Second Committee, where it was expected to receive comprehensive consideration. Accordingly, in the course of its consideration of its programme of work and timetable, the First Committee had decided that it might not need to address that agenda item. It is my understanding that the recommendation of the Assembly under chapter III, section D, of the item, will accordingly be taken up in the report of the Second Committee.

(The Chairman)

In view of that, and on the basis of further consultations, it is my understanding that as far as the First Committee is concerned the Committee wishes to decide that no action is to be taken on this agenda item. If I hear no objection I shall take it that the Committee agrees.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call upon the Secretary of the Committee, who wishes to make some announcements.

Mr. KHERADI (Secretary of the Committee): I should like to inform delegations that, with a view to facilitating their work at this stage of preparation for the forthcoming vote on disarmament items by the General Assembly in plenary meeting, the secretariat of the First Committee has prepared an informal paper that is a tabulation entitled "Reports of the First Committee", which will be distributed shortly. This is only an informal paper, and it will set out a tabulation showing the corresponding numbers on the "L" documents adopted in the First Committee with the corresponding numbers in the report that will appear when the voting is held in plenary meeting. It is our sincere hope that this will facilitate and expedite the work of the members of the First Committee when the plenary meeting reaches this stage.

In addition, I should just like to put on record the fact that a conference room paper will also be issued subsequently setting out a consolidated statement of financial implications of the draft resolutions adopted.

CONCLUSION OF THE WORK OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

The CHAIRMAN: I now call upon the representative of Tunisia, who has asked to make a statement on behalf of the Group of African States.

Mr. JERANDI (Tunisia) (interpretation from Arabic): At the outset, Mr. Chairman, as the Committee is about to conclude its work after finishing our consideration of all the items on our agenda, allow me to express to you

(Mr. Jerandi, Tunisia)

personally, on behalf of my delegation and all the fraternal African delegations in the First Committee, our warmest congratulations on your excellent guidance of the business with which you have been entrusted as Chairman of the Committee. I wish to commend your extreme efficiency in conducting the Committee's work. We thank you for all the efforts you have made throughout the session and your willingness to listen to our statements and take account of our concerns, all ultimately aimed at realizing the noble hope of the Committee, namely, that peace and tranquillity might prevail in the world. Our task in the Committee has been greatly assisted by your chairmanship, and it has been carried out in the best possible manner. In this connection I should also like to express the thanks and gratitude of all the African delegations in the Committee to all the other officers of the Committee and to the Committee's secretariat for their efforts, which have facilitated our task. You, Sir, have met our expectations and have made it easier for us to consider all the items on our agenda.

On behalf of my delegation and all the African delegations, we wish to thank you all for your help, which has embodied the spirit that has prevailed in the Committee. Although we are from different geographical regions, the détente that prevails today in international relations will, we believe, enable us to achieve a better world and build an international family motivated by co-operation and common interests, a world in which justice and peace will prevail.

The CHARIMAN: I call on the representative of Turkey, who has asked to speak on behalf of the Group of Asian States.

Mr. ALPMAN (Turkey): On behalf of the Chairman of the Group of Asian States, I have the honour and the pleasure of congratulating you, Sir, on the able and expeditious manner in which you have conducted the deliberations of the First Committee. We take special pride in your success because you are an eminent member of our Asian Group. This session of the First Committee has been an exemplary one, in harmony with the spirit of co-operation prevailing in international relations. That spirit was present throughout the work of the Committee, and it was reflected in particular in the increased number of draft resolutions adopted by consensus.

As you stated earlier, Sir, on the occasion of the conclusion of the Committee's work on disarmament agenda items:

> "... the Committee has made significant headway in narrowing important differences, both broadening the areas of consensus and taking practical steps in the areas of disarmament and the further rationalization of the work of the Committee". (A/C.1/45/PV.39, p. 76)

We pay a tribute to you and to all the others who contributed to that success.

In that regard, I would like to extend our appreciation to the Vice-Chairmen of the Committee, Mr. Ronald Morris of Australia and Mr. Sergei Martynov of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, as well as to our Rapporteur, Mr. Latevi Modem Lawson-Betum of Togo.

Our appreciation also goes to Under-Secretary-General Mr. Yasushi Akashi, head of the most efficient Department for Disarmament Affairs, and to Mr. Vasiliy Safronchuk, Under-Secretary-General for Political and Security Council Affairs, who have always been ready to place their knowledge and expertise at the service of the Committee.

(Mr. Alpman, Turkey)

Through you, Sir, I also wish to express our thanks to the Secretary of the Committee, Mr. Sohrab Kheradi, and to all the other members of the Secretariat who assisted the Committee in its work with great dedication and ability. We should also express our special gratitude to all the interpreters, conference officers and the personnel of the Department of Public Information for their vital contribution to our work.

While looking forward to next year's session with the anticipation of further enhancing the success of the First Committee, I should like once again to express to you, Sir, on behalf of the Group of Asian States, our deep gratitude.

The CHAIRMAN: I call on the representative of Romania, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States.

Mr. DRAGHICI-SUTIC (Romania): The Romanian delegation, in its capacity as Co-ordinator of the Eastern European Group of States for the month of November, would like to express to you, Sir, and to the members of the Bureau the appreciation of the Group for the efficient and productive manner in which the debates of the First Committee were conducted, as was reflected also in the impressive number of draft resolutions adopted by consensus.

I should also like to thank the members of the Secretariat who, by their activity, have fully contributed to the success of the Committee's work.

Last but not least, we should like to extend our appreciation to the interpreters, because without their contribution the entire activity of the United Nations could hardly be imagined.

The CHAIRMAN: I call on the representative of Brazil, who will speak on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group.

Mr. ARAUJO CASTRO (Brazil): On behalf of the delegations of the States members of the Latin American and Caribbean Group, I should like to extend to you, Sir, our acknowledgement of the very able and efficient manner in which you have

(Mr. Araujo Castro, Brazil)

conducted the work of the First Committee during the current session of the United Nations General Assembly. Your proven diplomatic skill and long-standing experience were fundamental, not only in ensuring the smooth conduct of our work, but also in securing substantive results at the present session.

The work of the First Committee is unique in that it focuses on issues of great importance to all members of the international community. The Committee has discharged its functions as a forum for debate and negotiation in its traditional businesslike manner and in a spirit of dialogue and understanding, as the results obtained are sure to confirm.

I should like to request you, Sir, to convey to the Vice-Chairmen, Mr. Ronald Morris of Australia and Mr. Sergei Martynov of the Byelorussian SSR, and to the Rapporteur, Mr. Latevi Modem Lawson-Betum of Togo, the appreciation of the Latin American and Caribbean Group for the invaluable assistance they have provided to the Committee during the current session.

The acknowledgement of the Group also goes to Mr. Yasushi Akashi, Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, and to Mr. Vasiliy Safronchuk, Under-Secretary-General for Political and Security Council Affairs.

Last but certainly not least, I also convey our appreciation to the Secretary of the First Committee, Mr. Sohrab Kheradi, and to his capable staff, as well as to the conference officers, interpreters and all other support personnel, without whose collaboration our work would not have been possible.

The CHAIRMAN: I call on the representative of Denmark, who has asked to speak on behalf of the Group of Western European and other States.

Mr. JAEGER (Denmark): As we come to the end of the work of the First Committee for this session, I am pleased to express to you, Sir, on behalf of the Group of Western European and other States, our collective appreciation and sincere

(Mr. Jaeger, Denmark)

congratulations on the skilful and excellent manner in which you have guided our work in this important Committee.

Our congratulations also go to the other officers of the Committee and to Mr. Akashi, Under-Secretary-General of the Department for Disarmament Affairs and Mr. Kheradi, Secretary of the Committee, as well as to the other members of the Secretariat. We also thank the interpreters and the technical staff, who, by their efficiency and co-operation, have supported the work of the Committee.

The work of the First Committee during the present session has been performed in a businesslike atmosphere with a considerable degree of co-operation and mutual understanding, as reflected in the increased number of draft resolutions adopted by consensus.

We trust that that trend will continue in the future and will also be seen in the search for further rationalization of the work of the First Committee, to which you, Sir, have contributed significantly in the consultations you have undertaken during recent weeks and which has been reflected in the working paper you presented.

CONCLUDING STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN: With the adoption of the draft resolutions regarding international security, we have completed the work programme of this year's session of the First Committee, and with the Committee's indulgence I would like to share some personal reflections on our work and accomplishments this year.

Today, world attention is focused on the United Nations. There is now a growing recognition that the Organization, with nearly universal membership, is an irreplaceable forum for advancing the goals of disarmament and international peace and security. It was a matter of satisfaction to all of us that this year the Committee could register broader areas of agreement on a number of issues. That was reflected not only in the many decisions adopted without a vote, but also in the reduced number of proposals submitted for consideration.

As I stated earlier, at the close of our consideration of the disarmament agenda items, almost 50 per cent of the proposals submitted under the disarmament agenda items were adopted without a vote. I am sure that all members of the Committee will agree with me when I say that that is a clear indication of genuine and strenuous efforts on the part of all concerned to undertake the necessary consultations with a view to realizing common positions whenever and wherever possible. Indeed, the fact that fewer proposals were submitted this year than at any time during the past many years can only be interpreted as a renewed and invigorating interest on the part of delegations in matters concerning disarmament and arms limitation, which are at the core of the security interests of all countries.

However, we are all aware that a number of serious and complex issues remain before us. Efforts towards peace and disarmament cannot cease now that the cold war has ended. Processes of change and policy innovation offer opportunities that this Committee must fully exploit. The goals are clear, and the Organization provides us with the means to achieve them.

(The Chairman)

In that context, education, training and the dissemination of relevant experience and information are among the crucial elements, and hence I am glad to note the agreement reached on the three draft resolutions dealing with the United Nations disarmament fellowship programme, the United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament, and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research.

Better knowledge of issues and substantive research in new fields permit us also to deepen our understanding of the tasks before us, as well as of the role that the United Nations could play. Here, I would like to mention the three studies that were launched - confidence-building measures in outer space; the potential uses of resources allocated to military activities for civilian endeavour to protect the environment; and defensive security concepts and policies - and a research report dealing wich the economic aspects of disarmament.

Against the background of the recent conclusion in Paris of an unprecedented regional disarmament agreement, the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe, we may note at the same time with satisfaction that, at the multilateral level, five proposals dealing with conventional disarmament were adopted by the First Committee without a vote. That common approach was also evident in the proposals addressing the issue of chemical and biological weapons. The Committee has once again renewed its call to all States to observe strictly the principles and objectives of the 1925 Geneva Protocol. It has also urged as a matter of highest priority the intensification of efforts towards the conclusion of a global convention banning chemical weapons. The same spirit of commonality has marked the questions of radiological weapons and possible new weapons of mass destruction.

Despite the positive developments I referred to earlier, I must emphasize that progress remains unrealized in some areas, including some of particular significance. For instance, as the Committee is aware, divergences persist on nuclear matters. In particular, despite good-faith efforts, the Committee was

(The Chairman)

unable to narrow differences regarding the question of the cessation of nuclear-test explosions.

The debate on various aspects of that issue was in line with that which took place in Geneva at the Fourth Review Conference of the Parties to the non-proliferation Treaty, a debate that can be expected to continue at the forthcoming amendment Conference. One can only express the hope that those processes of change in the world so often mentioned and welcomed by the Committee will soon narrow the divergences in approach and ultimately make them irrelevant.

As another step towards the continuing process of rationalization of the work of the First Committee, I initiated extensive consultations among delegations on the issue and held several informal open-ended meetings of the Friends of the Chairman during the current session. Taking into account various views expressed and proposals made in the course of those consultations, I am availing myself of the opportunity to set out certain proposals and suggestions in a working paper entitled "Suggestions for further rationalization of the work of the First Committee" (A/C.1/45/10), which I hope will provide a basis for further consideration of that subject. In addition, it should be noted that, in my capacity as Chairman of the Committee at the forty-fifth session, I would be available, with the assistance and co-operation of the Secretariat, to facilitate the necessary consultations during the interim period between now and the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly. The Committee may also wish to devote attention to the question of establishing a standing consultation group that would give consideration on a more consistent basis to issues relating to the further rationalization of the work of the First Committee.

I also believe that this year's debate on the question of Antarctica generated several helpful insights, principally with respect to growing global concern for effective safeguards for the Antarctic environment.

(The Chairman)

In concluding our work, I am encouraged by the positive attitude of Member States in approaching all aspects of international security with a fresh vision, compatible with the challenges and opportunities of the present time. It is my belief that it may take some time for Member States to thoroughly analyse and reflect on the dramatic events rapidly occurring in the world today in terms of their own vital needs for security. As attested by most of the statements, this session has brought to the fore the reality that, despite a hopeful new world political environment, serious threats to peace and security remain.

(The Chairman)

The First Committee has amply demonstrated that it is up to the task of making an important contribution to the strengthening of international peace and security. I am particularly gratified that, despite the occasionally differing views expressed by delegations, there was overwhelming agreement on the need to revitalize the work of the United Nations in the realm of expanding and deepening international peace and security.

I could not conclude my work as Chairman without a very deep and warm expression of thanks to those individuals who worked closely with me over the past few months. I owe heartfelt thanks to my fellow officers of the Bureau, the two Vice-Chairmen, Mr. Ron Morris of Australia and Mr. Sergei Martynov of the Byelorussian SSR, and the Rapporteur of the Committee, Mr Latevi Modem Lawson-Betum of Togo. Certainly, the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, Mr. Yasushi Akashi, and the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Security Council Affairs, Mr. Vasiliy Safronchuk, have earned my deep gratitude for the extremely valuable support and guidance that they have rendered me and the entire Committee.

I believe that all members would wish to share in my tribute to the Secretary of the First Committee, Mr. Sohrab Kheradi, whose particular qualifications have made a tremendous contribution to our work. His knowledge of the disarmament field, his diplomatic abilities and his organizational skills have certainly enriched our work, and I want him to know how deeply grateful I and the Committee are to him. I am also truly grateful to his colleagues, in particular his assistant, Mr. Sattar, and to Ms. Perkins, Mr. Ion, Mr. Alasaniya, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Ms. Brosnakova, Mr. Gerardi-Siebert, Ms. Marcaillou, Miss Patil, Mr. Taylor and Mr. Gavrioushkin, all of whom have rendered tremendous service to us. I am grateful, of course, to the conference officers, interpreters, verbatim reporters

(The Chairman)

and press officers, and to all who have enabled the Committee to function efficiently and effectively.

The meeting rose at 11.55 a.m.